

REMARKS

Claims 18 – 20, 22 and 23 are allowed. The applicants appreciate the Examiner's continued attention and consideration.

Claims 8 – 13 and 15 – 17 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to include all of the limitations of allowable claim 8 and is thus deemed to be in allowable form. Claim 9 now depends directly from claim 1 and is also deemed to be in allowable form. Claim 8 has been canceled.

New independent claim 26 corresponds with allowable claim 10, rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of original base claim 1. Claim 11 has been amended to depend from new claim 26. Accordingly, claims 26 and 11 are deemed to be in allowable form. Claim 10 has been canceled.

New independent claim 27 corresponds with allowable claim 12, rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of original base claim 1. Claim 13 has been amended to depend from new claim 27. Accordingly, claims 27 and 13 are deemed to be in allowable form. Claim 12 has been canceled.

Independent claim 14 has been amended to include all of the limitations of allowable claim 15 and is thus deemed to be in allowable form. Claim 15 has been canceled.

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Amendment dated: 16-MAR-2005
Response to Office Action of 12/19/2005

New independent claim 28 corresponds with allowable claim 16, rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of original base claim 14. Accordingly, claim 28 is deemed to be in allowable form. Claim 16 has been canceled.

New independent claim 29 corresponds with allowable claim 17, rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of original base claim 14. Accordingly, claim 29 is deemed to be in allowable form. Claim 17 has been canceled.

Claims 1 – 4, 6, 7 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Milne et al. (U.S. 5,983,087) in view of Basel (U.S. 6,341,166).

Independent claims 1 and 14 have been amended and are deemed to be in allowable form as set forth herein above. Claims 2 – 4, 6 and 7 depend, directly or indirectly, from allowable independent claim 1 and are thus, themselves, deemed to be allowable.

Accordingly, in view of the amendments, it is requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

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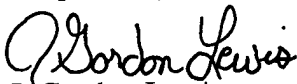
Conclusion

Applicants believe, in view of the amendments and remarks herein, that all grounds of rejection of the claims have been addressed and overcome, and that all claims are in condition for allowance.

If it would further prosecution of the application, the Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this communication and/or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-0831.

Respectfully submitted,



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